



Freedom Middle School

in the middle

February 2023



Hello and welcome to the sixth edition of the “*In the Middle*” monthly newsletter. Enjoy reading about all of the great things happening here at Freedom Middle School!

GO IRISH!!!!

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Important Dates:

Friday, Feb. 3	MS Musical 6:00 pm Lecture Hall
Saturday, Feb. 4	MS Musical 2:00 pm Lecture Hall
Thursday, Feb. 9	Pentemester 3 ends
Friday, Feb. 10	Pentemester 4 begins
Monday, Feb. 13	MAPSS Meeting 5:00 pm Library
Wednesday, Feb. 15	Parent/teacher conferences 4:00 - 6:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 16	Early dismissal 12:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 17	No School Conference Break
Monday, Feb. 20	No School Staff Inservice; School Board meeting 6:30 pm

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Important Reminders:

- ★ Masking is optional when riding the bus.
- ★ Masking is optional while in school.
- ★ School starting time is 8:00am. Ending time is 3:21pm. Students should be in their 1st hour class no later than 7:55am.
- ★ Turn in all appointment notes to the office. This will help in regards to the 5 and 10 allowable absences from the state.
- ★ Early release time is 12:30.

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Dr. Methner

Hello FMS Parents and Guardians!

January was a great month at FMS, and we are excited about February! Here are some highlights:

- The much-anticipated National History Day event is planned and moving forward!
- The annual spelling bee competition was held on Friday, January 20th. I was honored to be the "reader" for the words in the event. Congratulations to our winners!
- Our MAPSS group is planning exciting activities for the spring, including an escape room!

It's amazing that we are at the midpoint of our school year. I feel fortunate to work with such passionate educators and am impressed with our student body.

If you aren't already doing so, please take a look at our Homework Hotline. This is a great resource that is updated daily on our school website.

The Homework Hotline will indicate upcoming assessments as well as daily homework, and is a great way to engage in academic conversation with your student. Here's a link to the page:

[Freedom Area School District - Homework Hotline](#)

To our students and staff: I continue to be impressed with your dedication to learning and school spirit. You are what makes Freedom Middle School a great place to be!

I encourage parents and guardians to reach out to me or to teachers with any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at gmethner@freedomschools.k12.wi.us, or by phone at 920-788-7945 ext. 2309. GO IRISH!!!



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Counselor's Corner - Mr. Jason Bins

Greetings Freedom Middle School Stakeholders and where did the first month of school go? Although fast, our 2022-23 school year is off to a great start. Thank you for your support and guidance thus far and as we move forward!

The middle school counseling department is working on a number of items in October to support our students and families.

First is our yearly school, peer, and self safety presentation. In this we talk about how to support each other and overall school safety. Included within this presentation is a review of the See Something, Say Something (our district's school safety reporting platform) and the Speak Up - Speak Out platform created by the Wisconsin Department of Justice. These are both great tools to report potential safety issues and to keep our schools and students safe!

We are also continuing work on rapport building with our students, but adding an emphasis on family communication and building relationships with families to support the students at FMS.

With this said, I encourage you to let me know if there are "things" going on at home which may impact your students' day at school. This could be as simple as sending me an email that says "HANDLE WITH CARE - STUDENT NAME." This will alert me that

will not be followed with questions. Just a communication of receipt and an email to your child's teachers to provide extra grace to your student. Teachers/staff have been trained to not follow up with questions to your child, but just to provide the extra grace and understanding.

Your communication could also be more detailed with pertinent information to support your child's day at Freedom Middle School. As always, this information is protected by counselor confidentiality ethics (voided by potential or current physical harm to parties involved) and legitimate educational interest law.

As I often tell students, my entire role at FMS is to support the social/emotional wellbeing of the students of FMS. Please let me know how I can support your students as they continue their path into adulthood through Freedom Middle School!

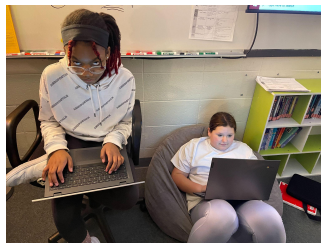
Thank you for your support of Freedom Middle School and its students and staff! Please let me know what I can do to help your student. I can be reached at (920) 788-7945 (x2288) or via email at jbins@freedomschools.k12.wi.us.
Water the Bamboo! -JB



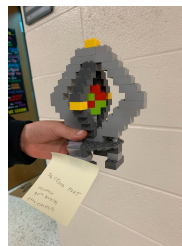
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6th grade

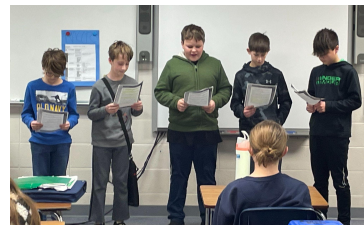
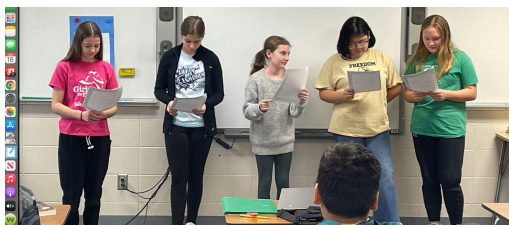
In 6th Grade the students have been enjoying Writer's Workshop time on Fridays in ELA. The students are working on creating imagery in his/her writing (sensory detail, figurative language, and word choice). At the end of the year, the sixth graders will have a *Writer's Celebration*.



Check out some of the 6th graders' atomic models to finish up our chemistry unit!



Reader's Theater in Social Studies



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7th grade

ELA

In 7th grade ELA, students will be finishing up our informative essay unit by independently writing an essay on Jackie Robinson. They'll share about their January independent reading books by making a video.

Science

In 7th grade science, we'll start earth science, with a focus on weather and climate.

Social Studies

In 7th grade social studies, students will finish up their National History Day projects. We'll move on to studying the Revolutionary War.

Congratulations to the classroom spelling bee winners from 7th grade!

Jayden M., Aubry R., Caleb K., Zayda B., Breanna D., Jessa M., George V., Jonah R., Olivia S., Amaya B.

Jayden recently won the school-wide bee! Good luck, Jayden, as you move on to the next level of the competition!

Congratulations to Olivia for coming in second in the school bee and to Caleb for being runner up.

Math

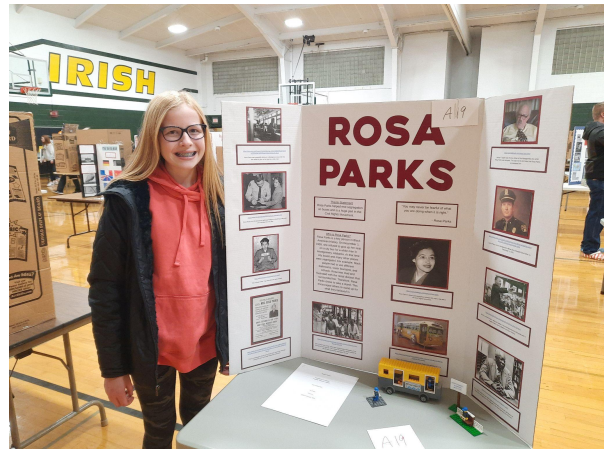
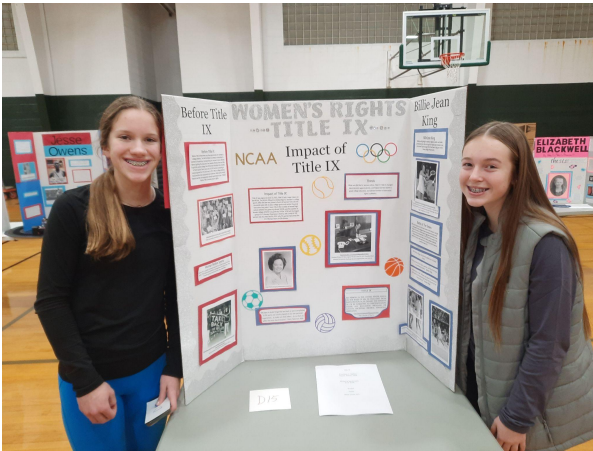
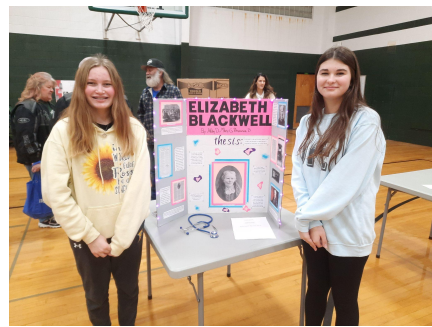
Students in 7th grade math finished their unit on rational numbers in the beginning of January. They are now in the midst of solving algebraic expressions and equations. Many of the students have enjoyed the change in topic and have expressed their interest in the concept of algebra. Please take a minute to ask if your child has enough pencils and red pens for math class. Many students come to class without these supplies.

Welcome to our student teachers
Emily Schoen (ELA) and Nathan Krizan (SS)



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Seventh Grade NHD



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8th grade

During the second quarter, eighth graders developed their summarizing skills in ELA. As they completed a unit themed around culture and belonging, their writing task was to write about some of the things they did in the unit, utilizing the summary skills they were learning. All the while, they envisioned their audience as FMS newsletter readers. Here is one eighth grader's newsletter article--congratulations to Ella Wagner who wrote this excellent article for your enjoyment.

Learning about Culture and Belonging by Ella Wagner

Over the course of the second quarter, the eighth graders participated in a culture and belonging unit, led by eighth-grade ELA teachers, Mrs. Fogarty, Mrs. Lingnofski, and Mrs. Baxter. In the Freedom Middle School eighth grade ELA classrooms, students viewed culturally based TED Talks, articles, stories, book club books, a website, and a documentary. They also participated in a service project, sampled food from around the world, and discussed topics across small and large group conversations. Mrs. Fogarty stated, "I believe that each person deserves to be valued." She also added, "These lessons are designed to help students appreciate their own culture and the cultures of others."

In the eighth-grade ELA class during the week of November 7th, eighth-grade students viewed a TED Talk called "The Language of Being Human" by Poet Ali. It occurred at the TED Summit in Edinburgh, Scotland in July 2019. In his TED Talk, Poet Ali suggested that language expands far beyond the traditional definition of different ways to communicate. He increased the definition of language into the worlds of laughter, experiences, text messages, disconnection, and love. During the event, he provided examples of different experiences and feelings. When a person related to a particular experience or

emotion, they simply stood up. This straightforward act showed that no matter what language was spoken, everyone as human beings are connected through backgrounds and experiences. A suggestion made by Ali as a way to encourage human connections was, "When you meet someone, ask yourself, what languages do we share?"...and... "What languages could we share?"...and... "What languages could I learn?" Finally, the eighth graders were able to see that everyone is connected, belongs, and should take the time to understand the perspectives of others regardless of the languages or experiences shared.

On November 14th, the eighth-grade students viewed the documentary *Waking in Oak Creek* made by Not in Our Town. The film was of the real-life August 5th, 2012 shooting at the Sikh Temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. The tragic event was caused by a white supremacist, killing six people. A local woman confirmed, "I think this is an assault on all of us." The entire community was affected, so they held funerals, prayer vigils, and memorial events. The students were able to examine that the entire community came together regardless of their specific religions, cultures, or beliefs.

On November 17th, the eighth-grade students participated in a book tasting in the

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ELA classrooms. Students read a brief summary of six different books relating to their culture and belonging unit. These include *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande, *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* by Phillip Hoose, *Tasting the Sky* by Ibtisam Barakat, and *All American Boys* by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely. For example, the book *All American Boys* relates to the theme because it covers the topics of racism and belonging. Students were able to connect the controversial topics of police brutality, racism, and protests to current events, and examine how culture and fitting in comes into play today. Mrs. Fogarty, an ELA teacher in the eighth grade, said, “We want to give students a chance to learn more about culture and belonging through a book that they will enjoy.” To conclude, the eighth graders were able to see which culture and belonging books they liked or disliked, and the eighth grade ELA staff were able to decide who to assign which books for their culture and belonging-themed book clubs based upon their rankings.

Furthering their understanding of culture and belonging throughout the unit, on November 30th, eighth-grade students viewed a TED Talk by Sally Kohn called “What We Can Do About the Culture of Hate.” From a TED Talk stage in New Orleans, Louisiana, Kohn described the matter that everyone needs to do their part if they want to end hate. Kohn expressed the real problem which is the hate systematically ingrained into mindsets from a young age. One example provided from her own childhood was that she herself was a bully. “When I was ten years old, there was this girl in my class named Vicky, and I tormented her mercilessly,” says Kohn, a

former bully. Later in life, she wrote a sincere letter of apology to Vicky. Another rather serious example was of a Nazi who no longer had hate for the Jews. She also said that everyone should be compassionate and caring towards one another. Lastly, the eighth graders concluded that she wanted everybody to use compassion, love, and peace while discouraging hatred and bullying because each and every person belongs somewhere.

On the 6th of December, eighth-grade students continued their exploration of culture and belonging through the viewing of the TED Talk: “Not Good With Names: Local Name Customs in a Global Village.” Ma Shwe Sin Win (Cynthia Win) explained where her name came from and how she has had to adapt it throughout different regions of the world for convenience. In 1990, her family moved from Myanmar to Singapore, where she changed her name to Sin Win, because it was easier than explaining the significance of her name. In 2008, she moved to Australia, where she changed her name to the western style of Cynthia Win. “If we don’t learn the names from other cultures and make it convenient for everyone to use their cultural birth names, will we still see traditionally meaningful names?” said Win, a Myanmar-born speaker. Win thought that everyone ought to use names from cultures around the world because she did not want anyone to have to feel as though they needed to conform to specific standards. In conclusion, the eighth-graders were able to concur that all cultural names are important, and that they should all take the time to make sure that everyone feels like they belong without adapting themselves.

In closing, Mrs. Lingnofski expressed, “Our goal is for students to

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advocate for one another, know their own value, and treat others with kindness.” Eighth graders at Freedom Middle School learned the worth of experiencing and comprehending others cultures while making sure that everyone belongs.

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EnCore classes

Exploratory Music:

As we turn the calendar from 2022, to 2023, the exploratory music students are taking on a new unit of handchimes. The sixth, seventh, and eighth graders have formed handchime ensembles in each class and are learning how to read, and perform, music for each other. This is an incredible opportunity as starting next school year FHS will be offering a handchime ensemble for students to take!

BAND:

Congratulations to Sierra Stordeur, Jordyn Uitenbroek, Makayla Evers, Gracie Berken, Kelly Krejcie, Kenyon Gail, Rebecca Rew, Katherine Cook, Carter Verkuilen, Kelsey Severson, Brooklyn Gulmire, Caitlynn Morack, Jonah Rodewald, Lex Arcand, and Elle Lezotte for being chosen to participate in the NEC Honors Band and Choir Day at Little Chute High School on Saturday, January 28th. Way to go!

Be on the lookout for information coming home about the Solo Ensemble Festival here at Freedom on Saturday, March 11th. We will be needing volunteers to help run the event so we have a great day!

Spanish: Señora Zabel

One of the goals in Spanish class is to get students excited about learning a World Language.

During class, we brainstormed a list of important reasons to learn Spanish:

1. It's fun to get to know people from different cultures.
2. It's important to be able to communicate with others.
3. It comes in handy when traveling.
4. It increases your brain function.
5. It can help you get hired for jobs.
6. It can help you learn more about yourself.
7. It is a lot of fun!
8. It's easier to learn when you are young.
9. It is spoken throughout the world.
10. It is a great way to make new friends.



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Agriscience & FFA:

With the start of the new calendar year there are new and exciting ways for 7th and 8th grade students to be involved with the FFA and the Agriscience Department. If you are new to FFA, we are a student organization, or club, that focuses on developing premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Some upcoming events middle school students can participate in include the Strawberry Sale Fundraiser, National FFA week events, EDGE Conference in Stevens Point, WI March 23-24th, and various Irish Hour events throughout the remainder of the school year.

We would like to take the opportunity to also recognize 5 of our 8th grade members who will be competing in the FFA Quizbowl competition at District Leadership Development Events this Wednesday, Jan. 25th. These students are Ella Wagner, Caitlynn Morack, Jordyn Uitenbroek, Aspyr Pfefferle, and Kinzie Hager. Good Luck!

CHOIR:

Congratulations to the FMS and FHS Choirs on a very successful and joy-filled holiday concert. Thank you to all that came out to enjoy it as well. It was so nice to see so many people in attendance and your support was so greatly appreciated! The choirs are busy working on new repertoire for upcoming performances as well as preparing for Solo/Ensemble. More information on those events will be coming out soon.

Congratulations to the twelve FMS choir students chosen to be a part of the NEC Honors Band and Choir Day at Little Chute High School on Saturday, January 28.

Freedom Middle School Choir will be represented by: Ella Bonnet, Zayda Byers, Evalynn Groneman, Nicholas Hofacker, Ruby Laabs, Journey Pengrazi, Aspyr Pfefferle, Kolton Rohan, Elliette Seifert, Sikari Skenandore, Ella Wagner, and Khloe Welsing. These students have been working hard to prepare their music and are sure to provide excellent leadership on the day of the event.

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From the health office:

Reminders for the school year-

- If vomiting/diarrhea- your student must be 24 hours vomiting/diarrhea free prior to returning to school/co-curriculars
- Fever of 100.4 or greater, your student will be sent home. Your student must be 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reduction medications prior to returning to school.
- All medication must be brought to school/picked up from school by a parent/guardian
- Bring in your emergency medication forms and medications. If a medication is kept on person, a physician must indicate that in the letter/form.
- If there is a change in your student's health condition/diagnosis, physical restrictions, please let the nurse know. Phone is 920-788-7944 or Email is akazik@freedomschools.k12.wi.us

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FMS Run/Walk Club



The FMS Run/Walk Club will be starting up again in March. All students in grades 6-8 are invited to attend practices after school. Students that are in other spring sports can also join! A parent meeting will be held prior to the season for paperwork to be filled out. Students will increase distance as we build endurance to run the Bellin 10K or 5K on June 10, 2023, in Green Bay. Others not able to participate in the Bellin are welcome to join, too. If you have any questions, contact Christina Reitzner (creitzner@freedomschools.k12.wi.us) or John VanRossum (jvanrossum@freedomschools.k12.wi.us).

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Middle/High Lunch Menu

February 2023

USDA is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Menu Subject to Change

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Lunch \$3.00 Reduced Lunch \$0.40 Adult Lunch \$4.35 Extra Carton of Milk \$0.30	The Foodservice Department welcomes your questions or comments. Please call 788-7950 ext. 3301	1 Pizza OR Popcorn Chicken & Fries Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	2 Brunch for Lunch OR Sloppy Joe Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	3 Chicken Patty w/ Mashed OR Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
6 Chicken Tenders OR Corn Dogs Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	7 Nachos OR Hamburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	8 Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Hot Dog Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	9 Chicken Nuggets w/FF OR Pizza Boat Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	10 Baked Potato Bar OR Mini Corn Dogs Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
13 Rib Sandwich OR Ham & Cheese Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	14 Chicken Wrap OR Tacos Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	15 Brunch for Lunch OR Pizza Pocket Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	16 Bag lunch Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	17 No School
20 No School	21 Nacho's OR Cheeseburger Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	22 Popcorn Chicken OR Salad Bar Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	23 Beef Enchilada OR Chicken Nuggets Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	24 Fish Sandwich OR Chicken Patty w/FF Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk
27 Spaghetti & Meatballs OR Rib Sandwich Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	28 Beef OR Chicken Tacos Vegetable Fruit Fresh Veggie Bar Choice of Milk	29	A positive foodservice balance is required to participate A la Carte Items Rice Krispy Bar \$1.25 Muffin/Granola Bar \$0.75 Dbl Ch Oatmeal Bar \$0.75 MEGA Meal \$1.50 Water \$1.25 Snapple \$1.75	